



# The Northern Ghana Restoration Initiative



Photo: Regreening Africa/Kelvin Trautman

## INFORMATION BRIEF

# SUSTAINABILITY OF THE REGREENING AFRICA PROJECT AND BLUEPRINT FOR SCALING LANDSCAPE RESTORATION IN NORTHERN GHANA 2023

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# List of acronyms

ANR	Assisted Natural Regeneration
CBOs	Community Based Organisations
CIFOR-ICRAF	World Agroforestry
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
DA	District Assembly
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EU	European Union
FC	Forestry Commission
FMNR	Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration
FORIG	Forest Research Institute of Ghana
GNFS	Ghana National Fire Services
MLGDRD	Ministry of Local governments, Decentralisation and Rural Development
MMDA	Metropolitan, Municipalities and Districts Assemblies
MoFA	Ministry of Food and Agriculture
NADMO	National Disaster Management Organization
NGOs	Non-Government Organizations
NDA	Northern Development Authority
NRI	Northern Ghana Restoration Initiative
RCC	Regional Coordinating Council
WVG	World Vision (Ghana)

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## 01

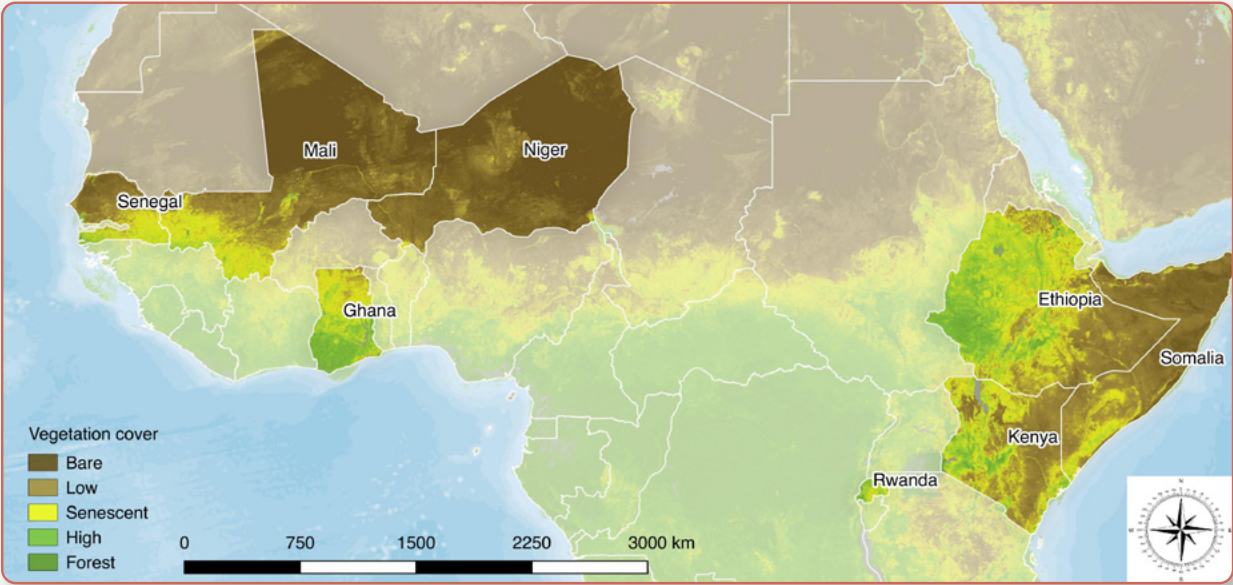
# Regreening Africa Project

**Reversing Land Degradation in Africa by Scaling-up Evergreen Agriculture (Regreening Africa)** is a 6-year project with a total budget of almost 25 million Euros European Union (EU) funded project led by World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF) across eight sub Saharan African countries.

In Ghana, the Project is being implemented through a consortium of partners made up of World Vision Ghana (WVG) and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) with technical support from CIFOR-ICRAF. **Regreening Africa’s** goal in Ghana is to create a sustained approach to **reversing land degradation and integrating food production through agroforestry**.

Regreening Africa addresses pressing challenges in Ghana’s savannas: extreme and prolonged dry seasons, overgrazing, uncontrolled bushfire, declining tree cover, loss of indigenous biodiversity and decreased soil fertility.

The Project running from 2018 to 2023 targeted 40,000 households covering 90,000 hectares by 2023 in the Bawku West, Garu-Tempene (Upper East Region) and Mion (Northern Region) Districts.



### Promoted Regreening practices



Tree planting



Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) and Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR)



Grafting



Nursery establishment



Tree care and management practices

### Scaling Model



Lead farmers



Trained community / farmers group



Government agencies indirectly through policy influences

## Achievement of Project Targets



### 46,400 households exposed

(> 100% of the direct scaling and leveraged adoption targets of 40,000 HHs)



### 44,500 households took up promoted regreening practices



### 50,600 hectares covered by newly established trees and FMNR

by households reached through regreening program (> 100% of the direct scaling target)



### Large increase in regreening related action

( 167% increase in average regreening action index)



### Significant improvement in terms of women agency

and decision making in agroforestry management



### Some increase in prevalence of common tree species

(shea tree, mango, neem, cashew etc.) among households across the program areas

# 02

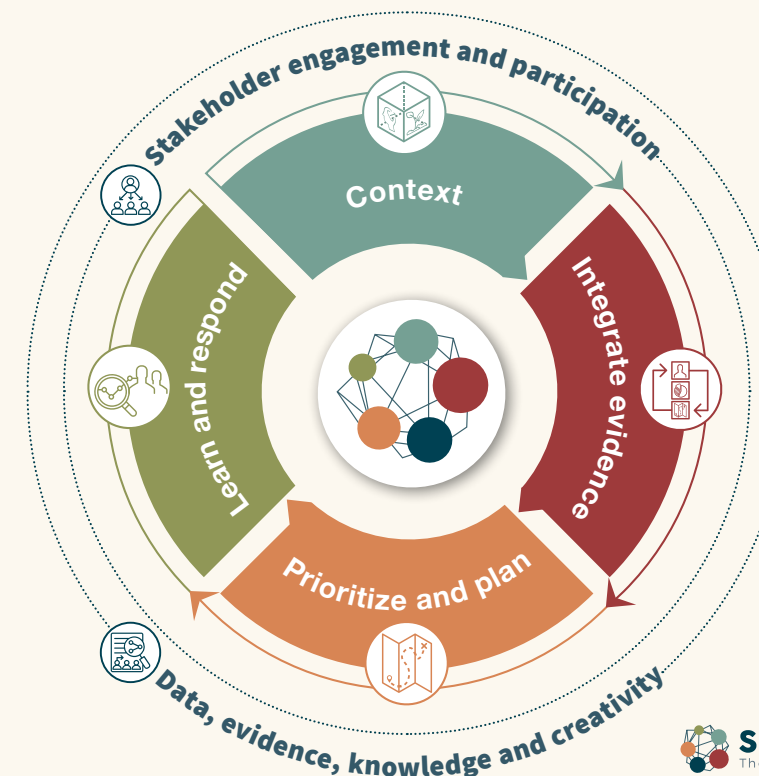
## The Northern Restoration Initiative

### Multi-stakeholder engagement: Policy, Practice and Science dialogues to scale regreening practices

One of the key approaches for scaling land restoration in Ghana is the active engagement with policy makers through multi-stakeholder campaigns and advocacy strategies. CIFOR-ICRAF, in partnership with World Vision Ghana and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) facilitated a series of multi-stakeholder dialogues and workshops at various scale (district, regional and national) using the **SHARED** (Stakeholder Approach to Risk Informed and Evidence-based Decision-making) process to influence policies and practices in favour of land restoration through evidence and experience sharing.

The series of multiscale stakeholder engagement which included over 200 actors, aimed **to foster synergies in knowledge, resources, and interventions amongst key stakeholders working on land restoration in the savanna belt**. More specifically, it sought to firstly **review and share evidence and experiences of successful and scalable practices**, and secondly to reflect on **improvements in the enabling policy and institutional environment** necessary for both land restoration and sustainable development in northern Ghana.

### The SHARED Decision Hub





## Why a Northern Restoration initiative?

To effectively increase tree cover, restore land health and community resilience in Northern Ghana, there is growing awareness of the urgent need to **design and implement strategies and policies that are aligned and coherent with the needs and objectives of the extensive and fragile Savannah landscape of the northern part of the country.** This is particularly important to achieve the desired impact and the long-term sustainability of landscape restoration interventions that can support the Government of Ghana achieve its commitment under the Bonn Challenge and the African Forest Landscape Initiative to restore 2 million hectares of degraded lands by 2030.

Northern Ghana is largely covered by Savannah mosaic landscapes shaped by woodlands interspersed with pastures and farmland with significant tree densities. It also has distinctive vegetation, weather, drivers of degradation and land use rights. **Tree resources in these dryland ecosystems cannot be effectively managed and governed by the same policy and institutional framework as the denser humid forest regions of the south.** Because policies focus on conservation and production of the humid ecosystems is on timber and commodities like cacao and oil palm, the resulting enabling environment is often inadequate for the northern regions. This not only accentuates the exclusion of smallholders who largely depend on wood and non-wood tree products but undermines the potential for sustainable land restoration at scale.

**The Northern Restoration Initiative (NRI) emerged as a movement from this multi-stakeholder engagement process** where the active collaboration of a wide range of governmental, academics, civil society partners, traditional leaders and farmers not only brought depth to the reflections and recommendations on land restoration in the northern savanna context but also **catalyzed interest and commitment for change and for establishing a sustainable platform and mechanisms to continue the stakeholder engagements beyond the Regreening project.**



Photo: Regreening Africa/Kelvin Trautman

## Roadmap to the Northern Ghana Restoration Initiative

From the onset of the project, during the SHARED National Regreening multi-stakeholder inception workshop held in Tamale in 2018, **participants highlighted the urgent need for improving the coordination of the numerous public-led, donor-funded, and private programs operating in northern Ghana in landscape restoration, food security and community resilience.** The event helped review some of the evidence around the benefits associated with integrating trees into landscapes, and collectively design a roadmap for taking re-greening practices to scale and for developing enabling policies.

### Tamale declaration on restoring landscapes and improving livelihoods in Northern Ghana

**“** We, the participants of the multi-stakeholder workshop, **‘Restoring landscapes for resilient livelihoods in northern Ghana’**, do hereby declare that there is an urgent need for the Northern Development Authority (NDA), MMDAs (Metro, Municipal and District Assemblies), traditional authorities, and the Ministries of Land and Natural Resources (MLR), of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI), and of Food and Agriculture (MOFA), to develop and implement a comprehensive Regreening Plan that integrates management of trees, crops and livestock, and to allocate a budget and incentive systems to support the plan, thereby helping to restore landscapes and improve livelihoods in northern Ghana.”



Image Below: Participants to the cross-regional workshop in Tamale July 2023  
Photo: World Vision Ghana





Photo: Regreening Africa/Kelvin Trautman

Over the course of the five years of project implementation, Regreening Africa has continuously engaged and consulted a range of critical actors through multiple stakeholder engagement processes to ensure the success of interventions and their long-term sustainability. The project regularly conducted learning events at different levels: a biannual National Oversight and Coordination Committee (NOCC), annual Joint Reflection and Learning Missions (JRLM), and annual reflection and learning with local leaders and community-based groups and farmers. It also supported the creation of environmental management committees in Mion and subsequently in Bawku West districts.

In 2022, the series of dialogues and iterative consultations facilitated from grassroots to national level have enabled a collective review of the evidence and learning of four years of project implementation of the Regreening Africa projects. It also created a creative space to draw in and integrate evidence and experiences from a range of other governmental and non-governmental agencies, farmer groups, faith-based and civil society associations. More than 200 actors were consulted and engaged in this process to consolidate robust evidence-based recommendations for addressing key challenges to land restoration in Northern Ghana. It enabled a common vision for improving the coordination of land restoration interventions with a strategy tailored to the savanna mosaic landscape contexts to increase the scale and impact of land restoration. It also catalyzed interest from a range of collaborators for **establishing and sustaining a NRI platform** beyond the Regreening Africa project lifespan and proposed theory of change for further land restoration interventions in the savanna belt.

## WHERE WE'VE COME FROM 2018-2021



- **2018 SHARED** inception workshop: "The Tamale Declaration" on the NRI

- Policy Review

- Evidence and data (uptake survey, Regreening App, Land degradation dynamics, Monitoring, evaluation and learning)

- Continuous engagement with policy and decision makers at various scales

- National Oversight Coordination Committee meetings

- Joint Reflection Learning Missions

## WHERE WE ARE NOW

### SHARED Multi-stakeholder engagement and consultations on NRI

3 District dialogues and exposure  
April 2022

129

Cross-regional dialogue  
July 2022

59

SHARED The Decision Hub  
National SHARED workshop  
October 2022

71

Northern Landscape Restoration Initiative Proposal Workshop  
7 & 8 December 2022

25

### REVIEWING EVIDENCE AND LESSONS TO CO-DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS



## THE CHANGE WE WANT TO SEE

Effective coordination with a **tailored strategy** and interventions to the **Savannah mosaic landscape**

Accelerated scaling of **landscape restoration**, **increased food security** and **resilience to climate change** in Northern Ghana

Photos: Regreening Africa/Kelvin Trautman



**Big opportunities**



**Scaling Practices**



**Enabling Policy and institutional environment**



**Partnerships and Platforms**



**Science, Evidence and Information**



# Building a common vision for accelerating landscape restoration

Participants to the SHARED REGREENING cross-regional dialogue held in July 2022 collectively designed a vision for accelerating the scale of land restoration in Northern Ghana

## Our desired outcomes



- By 2030, we, the people of the Northern Region of Ghana, will be living and working in regenerative landscapes that have **restored ecological integrity** and provide **ecosystem benefits and services**.
- Resilient livelihoods and well-being will be sought from **sustainable agriculture, livestock, forestry and agroforestry**. These will contribute to diverse and connected value chains and our capacity for supportive local savings and loans.
- Our **cultural belief system** will be associated with our **commitment to land restoration** and promote the importance of collaboration among indigenous peoples, men, women, youth and elders and their collective restoration practices.
- Our **governance system draws upon traditional and formal structures**, will be well coordinated, supports the inclusion of all stakeholders through multi-stakeholder platforms and promotes and implements policies that result in sustainable landscape restoration for Northern Ghana.



Image Below: Workshop group participants to the cross-regional multistakeholder workshop in Tamale July 2023.  
Photo: World Vision Ghana

To achieve these outcomes, we will create opportunities and mechanisms to:

- 1 Facilitate, advocate for and build the capacity for community led scaling up of sustainable land management practices (e.g. indigenous systems farming, FMNR, reforestation/afforestation, agroforestry, bushfire management, integrated crop-livestock management, soil, fertility and water conservation) supported by technical advisory services;
- 2 Develop integrated and diverse value chains within an effective market linkage system in collaboration with private sector, continue to enhance other income generating opportunities (e.g. ecotourism, a conservation fund) and enhance village savings and loans to support entrepreneurship;
- 3 Use existing and new technologies to understand the condition of our landscapes, to track and share market information and to monitor our change over time for feedback and learning.
- 4 Clarify institutional mandates, continually assess laws and regulation, promote incentives for implementation.
- 5 Link and mainstream land restoration programs, promote land-restoration and agrifood system research and knowledge sharing across stakeholders.

## What must be in place to sustain all of the above?

- To ensure that our collaboration efforts are sustained long into the future, we will deepen the education of our young people and strengthen the capacity of all stakeholders and collaborate with faith/religious leaders to underpin belief systems around restoring landscapes.
- We will have a trusted, transparent and community-inclusive governance system that strengthens inter-institutional collaboration, builds upon formal and traditional decision making and promotes policies, bi-laws and plans that incentivize the scaling of land restoration.
- We will ensure the effective sourcing of financial resources and logistical support. Our communities will continuously learn from each other and will be thriving and healthy with sustainable livelihoods derived from the natural resource base whose integrity and ecosystem function has been restored.



Photo: Regreening Africa/Kelvin Trautman



# Priority actions for accelerating the scale of land restoration in northern Ghana

## Recommendations from Regreening multi-stakeholder dialogues



### Scaling practices



**Mainstream FMNR/ANR** as a low cost easy to use land restoration practice through extension/technical services within the Department of Agriculture and Forestry Commission to enhance tree cover and land restoration. The technique is effective for both on-farm tree regeneration as well as a promising community forest option.



Active sensitisation, targeted co-designing and implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of intervention is needed to increase **community ownership and commitments** to land restoration.



Creating and promoting **alternative livelihood means for local communities** are essential to restoration. This can be through the development of forest village enterprises for improving the value chain of key fruit trees like Shea, Baobab, Dawadawa) or diversifying (e.g., bee-keeping), improving business creation, labelling, certification and support for indigenous products and cultural heritage.



**Bushfire reduction and prevention campaign** through capacity building and provision of basic equipment to fire volunteer groups and through sensitisation (radio programs).



Fire volunteer groups, nursery groups, women village saving and loans association, technology champions/lead farmers as well as school environmental clubs (youth are fast adopters and disseminators of regreening practices) are **important social mechanisms to foster cohesion and successful ownership of regreening activities**.

**Development of sustainable fuelwood value chain** through the formation of fuelwood cooperatives and linkages to buyers in urban and peri-urban areas and through the establishment of community forests and individual woodlots.



## Enabling policy and institutions

- **Revise extension strategies and package** to include FMNR and agroforestry - Develop agroforestry training in formal and technical education.
- **Review and adaptation of the Forestry Commission tree selection policy** to savanna species.
- **Long term financial mechanisms to mainstream land restoration programs** in MTDPs of MMDAs with clear cut budget allocation. Competence and capacity in landscape restoration/natural resources management need to be increased.
- **Sustainable environmental management subcommittee** created and empowered within the District Assembly with resources and capacities to ensure better coordination and monitoring of natural resources management and land restoration activities.
- District assemblies ensure the **formulation, enactment (gazette) and enforcement of community bylaws** on environmental restoration and protection (bushfire, charcoal burning, tree felling, land clearing for mining, agriculture investments).
- **Advocate and engage with traditional leadership** (chiefs, assembly members, clergy) to both increase land allocated to restoration and to enforce environmental by-laws. There is a clear need to value and take advantage of the traditional structures that already exist as chiefs are highly recognized by the local communities They can support local communities' commitment to policies, programs and initiatives to restore degraded lands and create sustainable livelihoods.
- **Conscious action on youth inclusion** in restoration through promotion of School environmental clubs. It serves to inculcate regreening approaches into children at a tender age and also youth serves as ambassadors of land restoration in their communities.
- **Develop and promote community Forest management planning**, reward and benefit sharing mechanisms as incentives for landscape restoration.



Image Below: Outcome mapping during the cross-regional multistakeholder workshop in Tamale July 2022.  
Photo: ICRAF/ Emilie Smith Dumont





## Evidence and science

- **Tailored vegetation restoration plans** to the needs and challenges of the Savannah environment. The more challenging climate part of the country requires a defined action plan inclusive of proven technologies and suitable plant species. This could be determined through evidence based research and through improving collaboration with other west African countries like Burkina Faso, Niger or Mali who have significant experience with Sudanian-Sahelian tree vegetation.
- **Monitoring and evaluation processes** for tree planting or protection are critical to tree survival and encourage communities to protect tree seedlings. Promote citizen science and critical data collection and facilitate the adoption of the Regreening App by local partners (Forestry/ Department of Agric and other NGOs). Regreening indicators have the potential to be used to assess progress towards national indicators as well as the district's performance attracts future investments for sustainable development and landscape restoration.
- **Research strategies** and priorities for dryland forest and land management should be identified.
- In particular **research for the promotion and development of indigenous trees** especially those with high economic value.
- **Use of GIS and Remote Sensing** for planning, management (identification of degraded lands and hotspot areas) and coordination of restoration activities on the ground. Also need to reinforce GIS and data collection in wildfire detection and control.
- **Documentation and dissemination of best practices** and results on land restoration - data accessible and available for adaptive management at MMDAs level (land use, soil and water, comprehensive bushfire data gap).

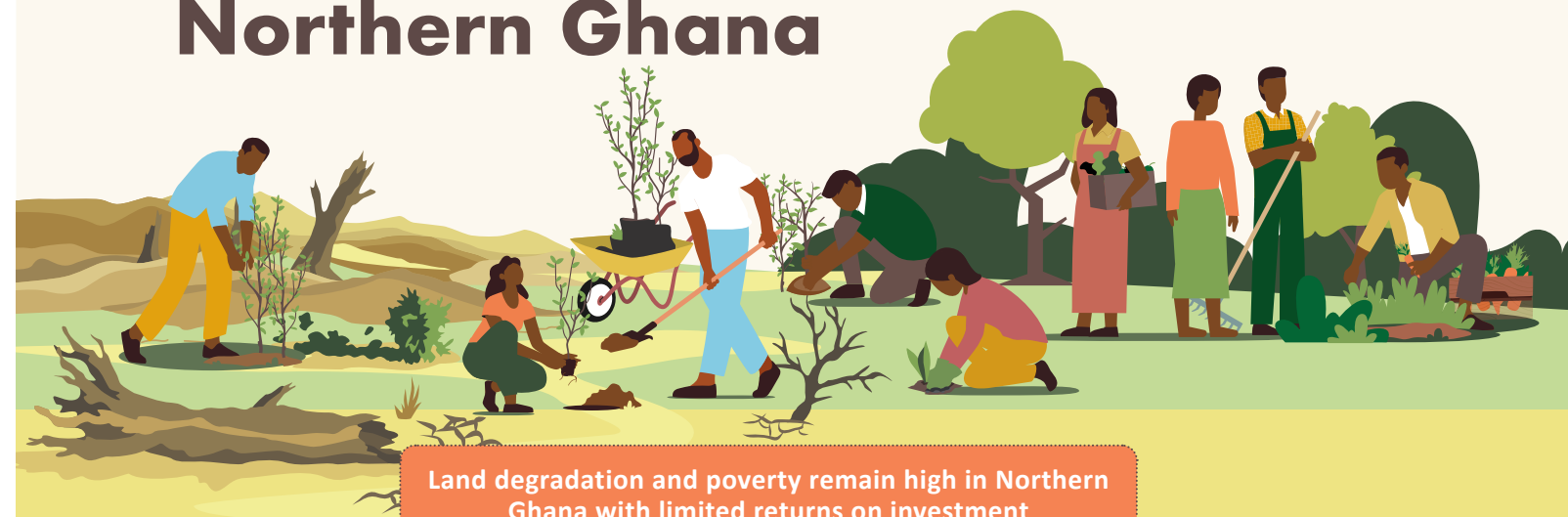


## Platforms and partnerships

- **Well-coordinated, all-inclusive stakeholder participation** supported by policies for sustainable landscape restoration for Northern Ghana to ensure the harmonization of approaches used by different stakeholders in the same geographical and socioeconomic contexts.
- The **creation of institutional mechanisms, governance and consultation principles** and processes for coordinated actions among institutions and stakeholders.
- Develop and share evidence through stronger coordination mechanism and the promotion of evidence based scalable practices and sharing of knowledge and skills. There is a need for improving **information and communication strategy** at community and district level.
- **Improvement in the flow of information on research and development** from the NGOs and research institutions to the donors, government and the private and public sector.

# 05

## Barriers and constraints to scaling land restoration in Northern Ghana



Land degradation and poverty remain high in Northern Ghana with limited returns on investment

- Increasing food insecurity
- Reduced alternative livelihood and income sources
- Increasing sedimentation and floods
- Extreme and prolonged dry season
- Decreasing agropastoral productivity

- Competing interest from stakeholders over land and resources
- Non-enforcement of environment by-laws and policies
- Gender and youth gaps
- Unregulated large scale commercial farming
- Increasing small-scale mining
- Unclear tenure/ownership of land and trees

- Erratic rainfall
- Declining tree cover
- Loss of indigenous biodiversity
- Increasing soil erosion
- Low survival rates of planted trees

### Insufficient mainstreaming of alternative regenerative practices

- Restoration policies are not coherent with the socio-ecological context of the savanna
- Data sparsity and knowledge gaps on land restoration
- Fragmented approach to restoration lack of alignment

### Inadequate tree species selection and poor quality germplasm in blanket reforestation programs

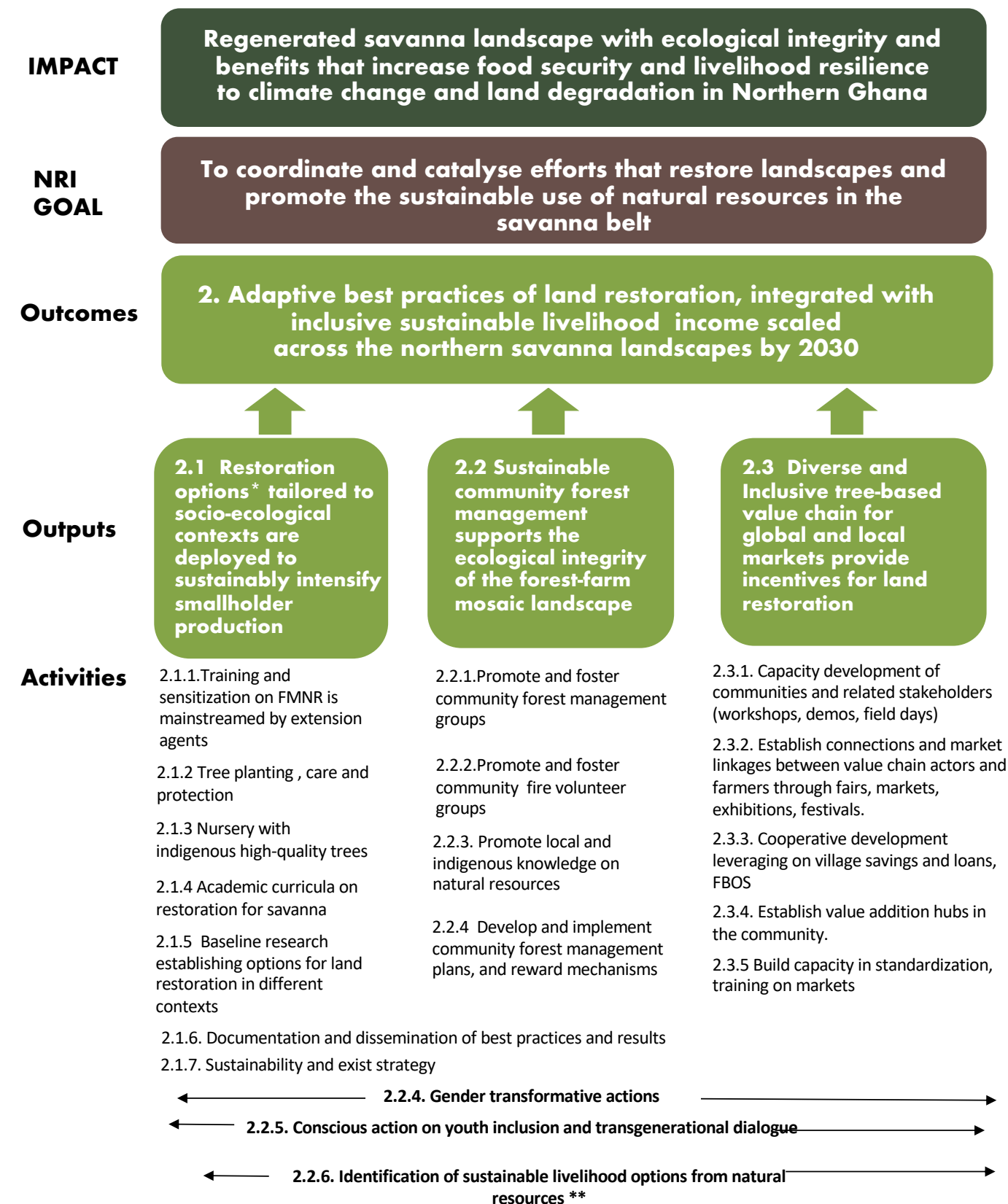
- Illegal charcoal production
- Uncontrolled bush burning
- Unsustainable land management



# Theory of change for the future of the northern restoration initiative



\* Options include indigenous systems farming, FMNR, reforestation/afforestation, grafting, bushfire management, integrated crop-livestock management, soil, fertility and water conservation



\*\* shea, other indigenous fruit trees (dawa-dawa, tamarind, baobab), bee-keeping, fuelwood





Image Below: Influence mapping during the NRI proposal writeshop in Accra.  
Photo: ICRAF/Emilie Smith Dumont

## 07

## Immediate recommendations for accelerating the scale and impact of land restoration in northern Ghana

- 1 Mainstreaming FMNR/ANR as an extension model for sustainable land management with linkages between agriculture and forestry

FMNR/ANR IS a low cost easy to use land restoration practice through extension/technical services within the Department of Agriculture and Forestry Commission to enhance tree cover and land restoration. The technique is effective for both on-farm tree regeneration as well as a promising community forest option.



### FMNR (FARMER-MANAGED NATURAL REGENERATION)

Systematic regeneration and sustainable management of trees and shrubs beginning with tree stumps, roots, and seeds in the soil. FMNR takes place on agricultural lands, commonly smallholder plots.



### ANR (ASSISTED NATURAL REGENERATION)

ANR and FMNR share the same practices, however, ANR takes place on communal lands where priority is given to protect mother trees and wildlings. Community forests, where ANR is practiced, have been a notable success across program sites.



Community forests inspire farmers to practice FMNR in their own fields, support collective action through social capital building (fire volunteer groups, farmer groups) and also underpin the formulation and implementation of community by-laws for bush fire and illegal wood extraction.

Photos: Regreening Africa/Kelvin Trautman



## Key challenges



- **Knowledge and capacity gaps** to effectively scale FMNR/ANR across the savanna landscape.
- **Classical tree planting receives most of the attention** despite the difficulties of seedling survival in the drylands and the cost of planting and protecting trees.

## Opportunities



- **FMNR has been shown to be a low-cost farmer friendly technology** with large evidence surrounding the positive impact on land health and livelihoods
- In Upper East, **ANR on communal lands (from 10 to 200 ha) has successfully protected and enhanced tree cover and diversity** with a multitude of environmental and livelihood benefits
- There is a **growing network of international NGOs and CSOs/NGOs involved in FMNR** working with public extension services
- **Huge potential for adoption and high return on investments from FMNR/ANR** in the savanna forest landscape that can help Ghana meet its national restoration objectives.

## Who should be involved?



- Ministry of Land, Forestry and Mines (Forestry Commission and decentralized authorities)
- Ministry of Food and Agriculture
- District assemblies and decentralized technical services
- Traditional chiefs
- NGOS and CBOs

## 2 Scale up the promotion of multipurpose indigenous species in tree planting programs through tree selection and improve access to quality germplasm

### Key challenges



- **Narrow tree selection for both public and private/informal actors** who does not take sufficiently into account local vegetation, farmers' preferences, and conditions.
- **The list of species (18) of FC** focuses largely on exotic timber species and is not actively promoting indigenous multipurpose species.
- **Actors work in silos** (ex. MOFA has the mandate for fruit trees but is not proactively collaborating with the FC).
- **Demand and supply of tree seedling** at district level is done across different entities – disconnection about nursery planning.
- Species portfolio generally focused on **timber through centralised registered nurseries**.

### Opportunities



- Interest and local knowledge of communities about a wide range of **indigenous species**.
- **High economic potential and cultural and socio-ecological value** of indigenous fruit species for local livelihoods.
- **District assembly can influence their request for species at the Forestry District level** and improve coordination between all the suppliers.
- **Grafting technology** for accelerating growth rate and improving quality of germplasm.
- **Collaboration between research institutions and development partners** to better match to the needs for reforestation or enrichment planting in the Northern regions.

## Who should be involved?



- Forestry Commission and decentralized authorities
- Ministry of food and agriculture
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Research centers (FORIG, Cocoa Research, Universities)



### 3 Create and empower multiple stakeholder environmental management sub-committees in District Assemblies

#### Key challenges



- Current environmental focus of the **district assemblies** is solely on sanitation.
- **Limited collaboration and commitment among stakeholders** at district level has led to a fragmented approach to solving interconnected land degradation and rural poverty problems.
- **Exclusion of important stakeholders** (local and traditional Chiefs and farmers) hinders grassroot implementation and impact.
- **District assemblies are overall underfunded**, understaffed and lack the adequate resources needed to efficiently manage resources and their users despite the role they have in decentralized governance.

#### Opportunities



- **Inclusive, effective and functional local governance system is key** to improve the impact and sustainability of land restoration and livelihood development interventions.
- Success story in Mion and Bawku West in creating an MSP at district level shows its **critical role in formulating, enacting and enforcing community bylaws on environmental restoration and protection** (hyperlink to outcome).
- **Engagement with traditional leadership** (chiefs, assembly members, clergy) to increase land allocated to restoration and to enforce by-laws.
- **Build competence and capacity in landscape restoration/natural resources management** and foster local communities' commitments to policies, programs and initiatives.

#### Who should be involved?



- Ministry of Local Governments, Decentralisation and Rural development (MLGDRD)
- MMDAs
- Traditional leaders
- NGOs involved in environmental or landscape management

Image Below: District level engagement in Garu Upper East- Regreening Africa  
Photo: ICRAF/Emilie Smith Dumont



Photo: Regreening Africa/Kelvin Trautman

### 4 Collect, analyse and communicate desegregated data on wildfires and degradation on different land uses

#### Key challenges



- Bush fires remain a serious issue that contributes to **degradation and hinders land restoration**.
- **Lack of awareness and know-how** on bush fire management.
- **Low capacity to analyse data**  
Ineffective monitoring of bushfires with unclear roles and capacity of NADMO and GNFS in prevention and restoration interventions.
- Mainly focused on **domestic fire responses**.

#### Who should be involved?



- District Assembly
- GNFS
- NADMO
- Traditional leaders
- Regional Coordination Councils (RCCs)

#### Opportunities



- Existing legislation (229) of the Control and prevention of bushfires act, 1990 to **report fires and establish fire committees** within the district assembly.
- **Monitoring on bushfire and land restoration** could assess DA's performance in terms of wildfire management and restoration impact.
- **Showing trends of landscape fires to provide stronger evidence** of the devastation of fire and support local action and implementation of by-laws.
- **Creation of synergies between actors at local level on the prevention of degradation and restoration** (Expand record capture, Review fire training protocol, Leverage of each other's strength).



## 5 Set up a coordinated, effective, and accountable platform to sustain and expand the Northern Restoration Initiative

### Key challenges



- Existence of various MSP but most are project based with issues of sustainability beyond the lifespan of existing funding and not specifically for the savanna zones.
- Several partners are working to improve the conditions of northern landscapes, but coordination and engagement of all relevant stakeholders is largely ineffective leading to duplication of efforts (overlap of interventions).
- Land degradation and poverty go hand in hand and require a committed cross-ministerial holistic engagement to support decentralised authorities.

### Opportunities



- Increasing awareness that the efforts deployed for land restoration and greening are not yielding the desired outcome and impact - Evidence-based information to promote tailored restoration for northern Ghana and influence national policies.
- Predisposition to collaborate – open to continuing feeding into other projects /leveraging on other interventions and scaling out.
- Donors encouraging collaboration and importance of multiple stakeholder engagement.
- Momentum gathered from the intensive NRI engagement and the dedication of different stakeholders with varied and rich expertise to the common goal of the Northern Restoration Landscape.
- Existing funding and ongoing projects to address climate change and land restoration and recognition of the need to improve coordination and cross-sectoral stakeholder engagement.
- Existence and mandate of the Northern Development Authority and decentralized services and institutions.

### Who should be involved?



- |          |         |                                     |
|----------|---------|-------------------------------------|
| ● MLGDRD | ● MESTI | ● Traditional chiefs                |
| ● NDA    | ● MMDA  | ● Private Sectors                   |
| ● MOFA   | ● RCC   | ● Universities and Research Centres |
| ● FC     | ● NGOS  |                                     |



Image Below: SHARED National workshop in Accra October 2022.  
Photo: ICRAF/Emilie Smith Dumont



Image Below: District level SHARED Engagement in Upper East.  
Photo: World Vision Ghana/ Seth Frimpong



## Conclusions and next steps

The series of in-depth multi-stakeholder engagement and policy consultation processes facilitated by the Regreening Africa project partners in Ghana enabled a **robust review of the experience and evidence of the project achievements and key lessons learnt**, while also **bringing in wider range of perspectives** from the farming communities to local and traditional authorities, NGOs and CBOs working across the savanna belt to discuss opportunities and actions for collaboration, scaling and systems change.

**A series of priority actions and recommendations for scaling practices, policies, and science** was co-developed and suggest improvements to ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of interventions aiming to restore land and tree health while ensuring resilience and fair benefits to farming communities. **To effectively increase tree cover, restore land health and community resilience in Northern Ghana, there was a unanimous recognition of the urgent need to design and implement strategies and policies that are aligned and coherent with the conditions and challenges of the extensive and fragile Savannah landscape of the northern part of the country.**

It is important that **restoration options are tailored to socio-ecological contexts** because blanket recommendations are largely ineffective in the northern savanna landscape, especially if modelled on humid zones. Instead, there are large **opportunities associated with the forest-farm interface, existing traditional agroforestry parklands, community forest management and indigenous trees** where FMNR/ARN coupled with adequate tree selection and care for planted seedlings can secure both returns on investments and benefits to local livelihoods.

The participatory development of a collective vision for accelerating the scale and impact of land restoration in Northern Ghana over the next decade also led to **the formulation of a theory of change for regenerating savanna landscape with ecological integrity and benefits that increase food security and livelihood resilience to climate change and land degradation in Northern Ghana.** This suggests a two-pillared approach where **adaptive best practices of land restoration, integrated with inclusive sustainable livelihood income generation** are supported by enhanced **evidence-based governance systems and multiple stakeholders' engagement** to accelerate the scale of land restoration in the northern landscapes

**Moving forward, there was a common recognition across stakeholders for the need to establish and a formal and sustainable NRI platform to coordinate and catalyse further efforts** to restore landscapes and natural resources and build community resilience in the northern savanna landscapes. Several partners are working on land and environmental restoration, but **effective coordination and engagement of all relevant stakeholders, including local authorities and technical services and traditional leaders, is critical to ensure the success of interventions and their long-term sustainability.** With the momentum gathered and concrete steps outlined, the Regreening project partners are committed to continue advocating and gathering political and financial support for consolidating and sustaining what the project has paved in terms of policy advancements for accelerating the scape and impact of land restoration in Northern Ghana.

## What key actors say about the NRI?

What excites me about the NRI is bringing evidence-based information to promote regreening northern Ghana and influence national policies regarding the realities of the climate change adaptation needs. We need to design and promote appropriate content for extension programs in Northern Ghana (**Sam Danse**, Director, Corporate Affairs & Relationship Coordination, Northern Development Authorities).

The NRI brings together different stakeholders with varied and rich expertise together in one platform for the common goal of the Northern Restoration Landscape. On my side, I commit to provide land and engage with other chiefs for restoration (**Chief Sintaro**, traditional leader and farmer from Mion district).

The excitement of the stakeholders so far engaged in the process give me hope (**Philip Atiim**, Project manager Regreening Ghana, CRS).

The focus on enhancing the basis of our livelihood through regreening interventions is key. I commit to influence the coalition of northern Ghana CSOs to priorities NRI advocacy in their programs and activities (**Bismark Adongo Ayorogo**, Executive Director of Northern Patriots in Research and Advocacy (NORPRA).

The NRI will improve the livelihood of rural communities in Northern Ghana as they are the most deprived and poor while managing with caution natural resources and ensuring their sustainable management (**Dorcas Gyimah Owusu**, Project officer, IUCN).



Image Below: Stakeholder mapping exercise during the NRI proposal writeshop in Accra  
Photo: CRS- Maaweh Tanga

## Further resources



**Regreening Africa in Ghana**

**Northern Restoration Initiative  
Regreening Ghana**





## Regreening Africa



[www.regreeningafrica.org](http://www.regreeningafrica.org)



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